AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A hair treatment method comprising:

generating electromagnetic radiation having a predetermined spectral composition and a predetermined intensity in a predetermined number of pulses each having a predetermined duration, said pulses having a predetermined total energy; and

directing the generated pulses from said generator away from entering a skin surface and in a direction substantially parallel to said skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface,

said pulses including at least two temporally spaced bursts of electromagnetic radiation, one of said bursts having~~, at least in part,~~ characteristic parameters including a spectral composition, intensity, and pulse duration effective to generate, in hair shafts protruding from said skin surface, heat energy transmissible along the hair shafts to weaken the same below said skin surface, to enable breaking of the hair shafts below said skin surface,

another of said bursts having characteristic parameters including a spectral composition, intensity, and pulse duration effective to sever the hair shafts above said skin surface.

18. (original) The method defined in claim 17 wherein the hair fibers protrude from a measurable area of said skin surface, said total energy being between

approximately 0.1 Joule and approximately 100 Joules of energy per square centimeter of said skin surface.

19. (original) The method defined in claim 18 wherein said pulses of light have a total duration between approximately 1 nanosecond and approximately 3 seconds.

20. (original) The method defined in claim 19 wherein the light of said pulses is incoherent and includes a range of wavelengths between about approximately 200 nm and approximately 1200 nm.

21. (original) The method defined in claim 19 wherein the light of said pulses is incoherent and includes a range of wavelengths longer than about approximately 800 nm.

22. (original) The method defined in claim 17, further comprising delivering a second form of energy to said hair fibers to cause the same to stand away from said skin surface, the delivering of said second form of energy including an action taken from the group consisting of applying suction to said hair fibers, vibrating said skin surface, magnetizing said hair fibers, and applying an electrostatic charge to said hair fibers.

23. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 17 wherein the directing of the generated pulses includes reflecting said pulses from a mirror.

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) A hair treatment method comprising:

generating electromagnetic radiation having a predetermined spectral composition and a predetermined intensity in a predetermined number of pulses each having a predetermined duration, said pulses having a predetermined total energy;

directing at least a portion of the electromagnetic radiation of the generated pulses from said generator away from entering a skin surface and in a direction substantially parallel to said skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface; and

applying a dye to the protruding hair fibers along said skin surface prior to the directing of the generated pulses.

28. (previously presented) A hair treatment device comprising:

a generator of electromagnetic radiation; and

optical guide componentry operatively connected to said generator so as to direct electromagnetic radiation from said generator away from entering a skin surface and in a direction substantially parallel to said skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface,

said light guide componentry including means for directing electromagnetic radiation from said generator into said skin surface.

29. (previously presented) A hair treatment device comprising:

a hand-holdable casing;

a generator of electromagnetic radiation, said generator being mounted to said casing; and

at least one optical element mounted to said casing so as to direct a first portion of electromagnetic radiation produced by said generator in a direction substantially parallel to a skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface, and to direct a second portion of the electromagnetic radiation produced by said generator into the skin surface.

30. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 29 wherein said optical element includes a partially reflective and partially transmissive mirror.

31. (previously presented) A hair treatment method comprising:

generating electromagnetic radiation;

directing a first portion of the electromagnetic radiation in a direction substantially parallel to a skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface; and

directing a second portion of the electromagnetic radiation into the skin surface.

32. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 31, further comprising directing the electromagnetic radiation through a partially reflective and partially transmissive mirror to produce said first portion and said second portion.